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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the title as follows.

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CONTROLLER-LESS LIVE EXTRACTION OF BOARD-SWAP

Please amend the following paragraphs as follows.

[0006] FIG. 1 is an example of a conventional CompactPCI.RTM. Hot Swap implementation (being ~~FIG. 39~~ FIG. 39 in Appendix A of CompactPCI.RTM. Hot Swap Specification PICMG 2.1 R.20 (Jan. 17, 2001); and

[0015] For the first aspect, to avoid inter-board communications proceeding exclusively through the bus for the boards, the boards are physically connected otherwise. This method of communication may be conventional (e.g. wires through which communications ~~operates~~ operate on Ethernet protocol, or wireless) or proprietary. Many current boards have built-in Ethernet ports and firmware such that only minimal steps are necessary to establish a non-bus communication channel (i.e. connecting all the boards by Ethernet cables) among them. Note that this provides the functional advantages of CompactPCI Hot Swap without the weaknesses thereof (i.e. there is no single points of failure as found in the case of a single System Host or a single CompactPCI backplane (because, in the exemplary preferred embodiment, the Ethernet communications among the boards eliminates such weaknesses).

[0057] FIG. 1 is an example of a conventional CompactPCI Hot Swap implementation, being page 140, ~~FIG. 39~~ FIG. 39 in Appendix A of CompactPCI Hot Swap Specification PICMG 2.1 R.20 (Jan. 17, 2001). FIG. 2 is a circuit diagram that, according to the present invention, allows a board to satisfy both the CompactPCI Hot Swap Specification (with exemplary reference to FIG. 1)

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and to detect the opening of its own handle. Attached hereto, and incorporated as part of this application, is draft CompactPCI Hot Swap Specification PICMG 2.1 D0.91 (Feb. 5, 1998), which is equivalent to CompactPCI Hot Swap Specification PICMG 2.1 R.20 (Jan. 17, 2001) referred to herein for purposes of this invention (i.e. the differences between the draft and the standard are not relevant to this invention).

[0064] The CompactPCI Hot Swap standard provides for a "Hot Swap Controller", being a central device capable of exercising hardware connection control in effecting CompactPCI Hot Swaps. Whether this central device is implemented as (or considered) part of System Host or not for other purposes, this invention does not make a distinction and considers the Hot Swap Controller to be included in the references to System Host as a matter of terminological convenience herein.